(e) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. No precise time frame can be indicated at this juncture.

Launching of broad range of media products

584. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Walt Disney Company proposes to set up office in India to launch a broad range of media and entertainment products;

(b) Whether this project has been cleared by Government; and

(c) Whether the company would launch Disney Channel for Children in the country, as a pay channel or otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) One of the conditions of the approval given by the Government is that the company would not undertake any Broadcasting from Indian soil unless specifically permitted to do so. The company has not applied so far to uplink from the Indian soil.

New DD news channel

585. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a new DD news channel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of private software productions to be beamed on this channel and the details thereof like the number of sponsored programmes, names of the production companies, duration of their programmes, the names of the major programmes of those private production units and the salient features of the agreement that have been worked out?